

DRAFT Minutes
Traffic Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Voting Members Present: Paul Steel, David McKain, Chris Gluck, Lisa Mardis, Roy Nutter, Julia Durham, Mike Fike, William Blosser

Non-Voting Members Present: Damien Davis

Members Absent: Martin Dombrowski, Frank Gmeindl, Margaret Stout, 1st Sgt. Matt McCabe

MATTER OF BUSINESS:

Roy Nutter called the Traffic Commission Meeting to Order 6:30pm and held roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Rita Friend, 434 Callen Avenue, presented her request to remove parking on one side of Callen Avenue. Mrs. Friend stated that if two cars park on both sides of the road across from each other that an emergency vehicle is unable to get through.
2. Mark Dehlin, Trinity Christian School, brought up his concerns about parking and traffic on Listravia Avenue and the surrounding streets. Mr. Dehlin stated that the school would be willing to provide additional off street parking for residents if any on street parking is taken away.
3. Kathleen Musik spoke about her concerns about the parking and traffic on Listravia Avenue and the surrounding streets. Ms. Musik stated that the Intersection is dangerous because parked cars block traffic and you can't see around some structures to see oncoming traffic.

MEETING MINUTES:

Lisa Mardis moved to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2014 meeting. Dave McKain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BICYCLE BOARD:

None

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BOARD:

None

TRAFFIC CALMING REPORT:

None

MONTHLY UPDATES:

Walnut Street Street-Scape project will not commence this summer. Hopefully this will happen in summer 2015. It should be out to bid in February or March of 2015.

Mon Blvd Bicycle Lane will be installed after the intersection at Evansdale is completed. The City will be installing the proper signage.

The intersection of University Avenue and Oakland Street Request for Proposals will be advertised in the next two weeks. After firm is selected and a design completed the Advertisement for Bids will put in the newspapers in March 2015 or April 2015.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Request for traffic study on Southview Avenue: Damien Davis, Engineering Department, reviewed the traffic study performed on Southview Avenue and surrounding streets. Damien stated that when one end of Southview Avenue was closed there was an increase of traffic on the surrounding streets. Data provided by DD was reviewed. Next step will be for DD to attend the Suncrest Neighborhood Association meeting in October, present the data from the traffic survey, and get a sense of the people living on those streets regarding closing Southview and its effects on other streets as evidenced in the data presented to TC.
2. Request for “No Right on Red” and placement of Stop Bars at Richwood Avenue and Darst Street intersection: No traffic study has been completed. Engineering Department will have recommendation for Traffic Commission at next meeting.
3. Request for Traffic Study on Hampton Avenue and Darst Street: No traffic study has been completed. No study will generate useful data at this time because of the changes required by the construction of the new Hartman Run Bridge. A study would make little sense until after the bridge replacement has been completed.
4. Request to remove or restrict parking near the intersection of Listravia Avenue and Linnehurst Street: Damien Davis, Engineering Department, presented nine options to try and correct the problem with on street parking and traffic in this area. Following considerable discussion of all of the options and of their obvious effects on the residents and those using the streets, ***Lisa Mardis, Sixth Ward, moved to recommend to City Council to restrict parking during peak hours on Listravia Avenue from Earl L Core Road to Linnhurst Street and remove parking on Linnhurst Street from Listravia Avenue to Listravia Alley. Dave McKain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

New Business

1. Request to remove parking on one side of Callen Avenue: Damien Davis, Engineering Department, explained using a picture that two cars legally parked on the street directly across from each other leave little room for larger (or in fact smaller) vehicles to pass safely while moving on the street. Damien recommended that parking be removed on one side of the street to prevent this conflict. The TC concurred as long as it is done by alternating sides appropriately to preserve as much parking as possible and to discourage speeding on the street. ***Dave McKain moved to recommend to City Council that parking be restricted on one side of Callen Avenue, design to be determined by the Engineering***

Department, for the entirety of Callen Avenue. Paul Steel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Instead of a formal TC meeting in November, The next workshop will be on November 5, 2014. At this workshop the topic of discussion will be “What does City Council want for the duties of the Traffic Commission.” An attempt will be made to provide a modification to the city code [151.0]. This is planned to be the final Workshop.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Paul Steel has noticed that drivers think Stop Signs are optional. This was confirmed by many on the committee. One comment was of a driver passing another car who had stopped at a stop sign!

Julia Durham asked if there was any information regarding WVDOT and VanVoorhis Road. Damien Davis informed the Traffic Commission that the project has stalled. The WVDOT has funding available to improve this area but not enough to finish the sidewalk from Rt 705 to West Run Road. DoT is currently looking at alternate designs to widen the road and to maybe make the shoulders wide enough for walkers (and possibly bicycles.) For example, this might be done by putting the drainage pipes underground and paving over the drainage ditches to make the most use of the right of way. DoT will try to get as much improvement as they can for the allocated money.

Lisa Mardis expressed her thanks to Damien Davis for attending the community meeting at Trinity Christian School.

Mike Fike expressed his thanks to Roy Nutter and Damien Davis for attending the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2014. Mike feels that the Traffic Commission has received good feedback and advice from the City Council. He also feels good about the recommendations and direction that Council gave.

Roy Nutter agreed that the Traffic Commission received good feedback, advice, recommendations and direction from City Council and looks forward to discussing those things at the next Traffic Commission Workshop.

William Blosser stated that a lot of the problems/issues being brought to the Traffic Commission are going to keep recurring and are not going away. The Traffic Commission should look to improve the streets if we can't solve the problem/issue.

Dave McKain requested that residents please put thier child on the bus if they have the opportunity. He noted that using the public bus system keeps our neighborhoods from becoming congested with unnecessary vehicular traffic.

Chris Gluck told Damien Davis that the Suncrest Neighborhood Association is looking forward to him coming to the next meeting of SNA.

ADJOURNMENT:

Lisa Mardis moved to adjourn meeting. Dave McKain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.